

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 249575

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 249575

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJECT: MORNING SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT REPORTS

1. TURKEY GIVES US SOME GOOD NEWS AND SOME BAD

FOLLOWING AN NSC MEETING TO DISCUSS TURKEY'S REACTION TO THE LIFTING OF THE ARMS EMBARGO, FOREIGN MINISTER CAGLAYANGIL SUMMONED AMBASSADOR MACOMBER TO DISCUSS CYPRUS AND THE COMMON DEFENSE INSTALLATIONS (CDIS). HE ASKED THE US TO INFORM GREECE THAT TURKEY IS WILLING TO MOVE AHEAD ON CYPRUS NEGOTIATIONS BY DISCUSSING TERRITORY AND OTHER ISSUES IN ONE PACKAGE.

RESUMPTION OF US OPERATIONS AT THE CDIS, HOWEVER, WILL NOT BE PERMITTED BEFORE AGREEMENT ON NEW ARRANGEMENTS. CAGLAYANGIL EXPLAINED:

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PAGE 02 STATE 249575

--TURKEY IS WILLING TO RESUME IN ABOUT A WEEK THE TALKS

WHICH WERE SUSPENDED LAST SUMMER.

--IF THEY REACH A SUCCESSFUL CONCLUSION, HOPEFULLY
WITHIN 45 DAYS, TURKEY WILL PERMIT THE BASES TO BE
REACTIVATED.

CAGLAYANGIL CAUTIONED THAT EVERYTHING DEPENDS ON RAPID
DELIVERY OF PREVIOUSLY EMBARGOED ITEMS AND MENTIONED RUMORS
THAT OVER HALF THE EQUIPMENT IS NOT IN STOCK AND WILL BE
DELAYED.

AMBASSADOR'S COMMENTS: WHILE WE MUST WAIT UNTIL THE TURKS
SURFACE THE BASIC ISSUES THAT THEY WILL PRESS DURING THE
TALKS, I SUSPECT THESE WILL PRESENT GREAT DIFFICULTIES FOR
US. MEANWHILE, WE SHOULD MAINTAIN AN ATTITUDE OF SHOCKED
DISBELIEF THAT THE GOT COULD BE SO UNRESPONSIVE. WE SHOULD
CONTINUE TO TAKE EVERY OPPORTUNITY TO TELL THE TURKS THAT
DEFERRING ENTIRELY TO THEIR OWN CONCERNS AND IGNORING OURS
EVENTUALLY WILL HAVE THE PRACTICAL RESULT OF DISMANTLING OUR
PRESENCE, AN OUTCOME BOTH COUNTRIES HAVE WORKED TO PREVENT.
(CONFIDENTIAL) ANKARA 7857 (EXDIS), 10/20.)

2. RECONCILIATION POSSIBLE BETWEEN EGYPT AND JORDAN?

EMBASSY CAIRO REPORTS THAT JORDANIAN PRIME MINISTER RIFAI
ARRIVED IN EGYPT OCTOBER 19 IN RESPONSE TO WHAT THE PRESS
CALLED "THE REQUEST OF PRESIDENT SADAT." AMBASSADOR EILTS,
PRESENT IN A ROOM ADJACENT TO WHERE THE TWO LEADERS WERE
MEETING, HEARD THE PRESIDENT SHOUTING ACRIMONIOUSLY FOR A
CONSIDERABLE PERIOD OF TIME. A JORDANIAN EMBASSY OFFICER,
COMMENTING THAT RIFAI LEFT RELATIVELY HAPPY WITH HIS MEET-
ING, SAID:

--THE JORDANIANS WERE IMPRESSED BY SADAT'S REPEATED
ASSERTIONS THAT ONLY HUSSEIN CAN NEGOTIATE FOR THE WEST
BANK.

--SINCE RIFAI'S STAB AT MEDIATING BETWEEN CAIRO AND
DAMASCUS HAS FAILED TOTALLY, IT SEEMS UNLIKELY HE WILL
TRY AGAIN.
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PAGE 03 STATE 249575

--THE JORDANIANS FOUND INTERESTING THE URGENCY WITH
WHICH THE EGYPTIANS ARE SEEKING ARAB ALLIES.

EMBASSY COMMENT: FROM FAHMI'S COMMENTS TO AMBASSADOR EILTS,
WE ASSUME THE MAJOR SUBJECT OF DISCUSSION WAS EGYPTIAN DIS-
SATISFACTION WITH THE SYRIAN-JORDANIAN POLITICAL "FRONT."
(CONFIDENTIAL) CAIRO 10534, 10/20.)

3. SYRIA TO MEND FENCES WITH IRAQ?

EMBASSY DAMASCUS FORWARDS A MENA CAIRO REPORT THAT SYRIA HAS GIVEN IRAQI AIRWAYS PERMISSION TO RESUME FLIGHTS TO SYRIA AND TO REOPEN ITS DAMASCUS OFFICE. A KUWAITI PRESS REPORT

OCTOBER 18 CLAIMED THAT SYRIA IS SERIOUSLY CONSIDERING UNITY WITH IRAQ AND THAT ASAD IS READY TO RECONSIDER SYRIA'S ACCEPTANCE OF SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION 242 IF THIS WOULD FACILITATE SUCH A MOVE.

EMBASSY COMMENT: NEITHER OF THESE NEWS ITEMS HAS RECEIVED ANY MENTION IN THE LOCAL PRESS. NOR, APPARENTLY, HAS THERE AS YET BEEN ANY POSITIVE IRAQI REACTION TO SYRIA'S DESIRE FOR RECONCILIATION. AS OF A FEW DAYS AGO, IRAQ WAS STILL ACCUSING SYRIA OF FLAGRANT INTERVENTION IN LEBANESE AFFAIRS. (LIMITED OFFICIAL USE) DAMASCUS 4066, 10/20.)

4. VENEZUELA WORRIED BY CANAL TALKS IMPASSE

PRESIDENT PEREZ TOLD AMBASSADOR SHLAUDEMANN THAT TORRIJOS IS DEEPLY TROUBLED BY THE STATUS OF THE CANAL NEGOTIATIONS AND FEARFUL THAT HE WILL LOSE CONTROL. PEREZ, INDICATING THAT HE FULLY SHARES TORRIJOS' PREOCCUPATION, COMMENTED:

--FAILURE TO REACH AGREEMENT WOULD PRODUCE A MAJOR US/ LATIN AMERICAN CONFRONTATION.

--HE BELIEVES THE US ADMINISTRATION GENUINELY WANTS A NEW TREATY AND WONDERS HOW CONGRESS CAN BETTER BE CONVINCED OF THE URGENT AND CRUCIAL NATURE OF THE ISSUE. (CONFIDENTIAL) CARACAS 10895 (EXDIS), 10/20.)
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PAGE 04 STATE 249575

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